

Presenters and meeting attendees of the ILLC

ordered chronologically as per the site visit program

Meeting with the ILLC management team



Aloni, Maria. FSLP. Associate Professor. PhD programme director.

Maria is an Associate Professor both at the ILLC and at FGw. Her primary research interests lie in the areas of formal semantics and pragmatics, philosophical logic and philosophy of language. She has been the PI of VENI, VIDI and Open Competition projects funded by the NWO. Her current project (Nothing is Logical, NWO Open Competition, 2023-2028) investigates deviations of everyday reasoning from classical logic under the hypothesis that such non-classical inferences are a consequence of a tendency in human cognition to neglect empty representations. She is an associate editor of the Journal of Semantics (since 2009); member of the editorial board of Semantics and Pragmatics (since 2007), and member of the Academia Europaea (since 2020). She also co-edited the Cambridge Handbook of Formal Semantics (2016). In 2001 her PhD thesis on quantification under conceptual covers won the E. W. Beth Dissertation Prize awarded by the FoLLI.

<https://www.marialoni.org/>



Fernández, Raquel. NLP&DH. Full Professor. Vice-director for research (since 2023)

Raquel is a Professor of Computational Linguistics and Dialogue Systems. In her research, she uses computational methods to investigate how cognitive constraints, social interaction, and perception shape language processing and use in humans and machines. She has been fortunate to receive generous funding from the NWO to support her research (VENI, VIDI, and Aspasia grants) and she is currently the PI of an ERC Consolidator Grant. She is also a former director of the ILLC PhD programme.

<https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/r.fernandezrovira/>



Kronenburg, Cornelis. Interim ILLC manager (Oct to Feb incl.).

Cornelis has been involved with the ILLC as interim institute manager since October 2024. Before that, he held various interim management positions within the UvA. Since 2018, he has been working as director of operations within higher education. Previously, he worked for 13 years at central and decentralized level in various management positions within the Rabobank organization. He graduated in business economics. Cornelis is involved in church, educational and sports organizations as the chairman of the board. He is married to Elina and a proud father of three children aged 10 to 15.

<https://nl.linkedin.com/in/kroneco>



van Rooij, Robert. FSPL. Full Professor. Scientific director (since 2021).

Robert is a Professor of logic and cognition, with a special emphasis on language. He works mainly on Formal Semantics (analysis of lots of phenomena, lately mostly on generic sentences) and Philosophical Logic (paradoxes [vagueness, truth], conditionals, causation), using all types of tools (logic, information-, decision- and game theory, probability theory, causal models). He is also very interested in AI (especially LLMs), and its (philosophical) consequences.

<https://scholar.google.nl/citations?user=J3b3yXYAAAAJ&hl=nl>

Research Flash Talks



de Jong, Eline. EPS. PhD candidate.

Eline joined the ILLC in early 2022 as a PhD Candidate in the Philosophy and Ethics of Quantum Technologies. Her research focuses on the philosophical and ethical questions brought about by the emergence of quantum technologies. Topics she publishes about include responsible innovation, technological understanding, and the 'ethics readiness' of technology. Previously, Eline worked at the Dutch Scientific Council for Government Policy, and co-authored the policy advisory report on Artificial Intelligence ([Mission AI: The New System Technology](#)). She also took part in the Dutch working group that developed the [Exploratory Quantum Technology Assessment](#), a tool for exploring the ethical, legal and societal aspects of quantum applications.

<https://law.stanford.edu/eline-de-jong/>



Schindler, Thomas. FSPL. Assistant Professor.

Thomas is an Associate Professor of logic and language since 2022. Previously, he held postdoctoral positions at the University of Cambridge, the University of Amsterdam and the University of Bristol. He received his PhD in 2015 from the Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy. His research interests are in philosophical logic (especially paradoxes, theories of truth, set theories with a universal set), metaphysics, philosophy of mathematics, and philosophy of language. He is the PI of the ERC Starting Grant "Generalisation into sentence and predicate positions".

<https://www.thomasschindler.org/>



G. Alhama, Raquel. NLP&DH. Assistant Professor.

Raquel is an Assistant Professor in the Nederlandistiek Department at the FGw, UvA. She has an interdisciplinary background spanning computer science, cognitive science, and linguistics, which she brings together in her research. She uses computational models to explore questions about human language learning, processing, and the origins and evolution of language. Prior to joining the ILLC, she was a part of the Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence department at Tilburg University.

<https://rgalhama.github.io/>



ten Cate, Balder. TCS. Associate Professor.

Balder's research spans different applications of logic in computer science and AI, with a particular focus on data management, knowledge representation, and computational learning theory. Before joining the ILLC in 2021, he was a computer scientist and software engineer at INRIA, UC Santa Cruz, LogicBlox, and Google.

<https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/b.d.tencate/>

Meeting with PhD candidates



Bavaresco, Anna. NLP&DH. *PhD candidate*. PhD Council member.

Anna is a second-year PhD student under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Raquel Fernández. Her educational background spans Cognitive Science and Data Science. Since joining the ILLC in June 2023, her research has focussed on evaluating the comprehension abilities of vision-and-language models and assessing their alignment with human behavioural judgments and neural responses.

<https://annabavaresco.github.io/>



Chingoma, Julian. TCS. *PhD candidate*. Ex- ILLC representative at the FNWI PhD Council

Julian is currently in his 4th year of his PhD studies. His research field is Computational Social Choice, and this field deals with the study of methods that are used in collective decision-making processes. Typical examples of such processes include voting to elect a president and the division of limited resources. He is particularly interested in the design of fair methods that ensure outcomes that are representative of the collective.

<https://staff.science.uva.nl/j.z.chingoma/>



Klochowicz, Tomasz. FSPL. *PhD candidate*. PhD Social Committee Member. DIP/MLC seminar co-organizer.

Tomasz is a second-year PhD candidate. Before, he was a Master of Logic student, thus he's been with the ILLC since September 2020. In his research, he uses formal (logic), theoretical (semantics), empirical (experiments) and computational (algorithms) methods to study the meaning of expressions across languages. He is particularly interested in the semantics of modalities, disjunction and questions. He works on the Nihil project run by Maria Aloni. His other supervisors are Floris Roelofsen and Giorgio Sbardolini. He is a co-organiser of the FSPL group's seminar (DIP/MLC). He is also a member of the MECORE research group (Amsterdam-Edinburgh-Konstanz).

<https://www.tklochowicz.com/>



Kloibhofer, Johannes. MCL. *PhD candidate*. ILLC PhD Council member.

Johannes has just entered the last year of his PhD studies in the mathematical logic group. His main interests lie in the proof theory. He is also a member of the PhD council.

<https://www.illc.uva.nl/Research/Organisation/Research-Units/MCL/person/5281/Johannes-Kloibhofer>



Pouw, Charlotte. LMC. *PhD candidate*. ILLC representative at the FNWI PhD Council.

Charlotte has just started her third year of the PhD programme under the supervision of Jelle Zuidema. She is working on an NWO granted project "InDeep: Interpreting Deep Learning Models for Text and Sound", exploring the interpretability of deep learning models in language, speech, and music technology while trying to avoid biases, and provide transparency in decision-making.

<https://nl.linkedin.com/in/charlotte-p-895388153>

Poster session



Esselink, Lyke. FSPL. PhD candidate.

Lyke is a second-year PhD candidate. Her research lies at the intersection of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and sign language linguistics, focusing on using AI methodologies to enhance tools and approaches for sign linguistics research. Lyke earned her bachelor's degree in AI from the UvA and her master's degree in AI from Radboud University in Nijmegen. She first joined the ILLC in 2020 to complete her bachelor's thesis under the supervision of Floris Roelofsen. She helped Roelofsen set up SignLab Amsterdam and contributed to several projects at SignLab as a student assistant. In 2023, Lyke began her PhD as part of the Vici project titled "*I Can't Hear You—Could You Repeat the Question in Sign Language, Please?*".

<https://www.illc.uva.nl/People/person/5168/Lyke-Esselink>



Finkensiep, Christoph. LMC. Assistant professor.

Christoph's research focuses on understanding musical structure and musical systems through computational models. In his PhD project, he investigated the interaction of harmony, voice leading, and ornamentation in free polyphonic music. His current work involves hybrid probabilistic and neural models of music structure, and corpus studies using Bayesian models. Further scientific interests include music cognition, aesthetics, cultural evolution, as well as philosophy of mind and philosophy of science. He teaches courses on Generative AI in the Arts.

<https://www.mcg.uva.nl/people/cfinkensiep/>



Gättinger, Malvin. TCS. Assistant Professor. ILLC Colloquium co-organizer.

Malvin joined the ILLC in 2021. Previously, he worked in the AI department of the Bernoulli Institute at the University of Groningen. His main research area is Modal Logic

with both its mathematical theory and its concrete applications. In particular he has worked on Propositional Dynamic Logic, Dynamic Epistemic Logic, and Gossip Protocols. Techniques used and developed in his work include Symbolic Model Checking, Theorem Proving, Functional Programming and Interactive Proof Assistants.

<https://malv.in/>



Girlando, Marianna. MCL. Assistant Professor. Ex-ILLC Postdoc Council member.

Marianna first joined the ILLC in 2022 as a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellow with a project dedicated to cyclic proof theory. In September 2024, she was appointed an Assistant Professor, immediately following the conclusion of my fellowship. Her research focuses primarily on proof theory for modal logics and, more specifically, on cyclic proof systems. These proof systems are particularly powerful for capturing the recursive behaviors of modal operators, such as fixpoints and iterative program properties (safety, liveliness).

<https://www.mariannagirlando.com/Girlando.html>



de Haan, Ronald. TCS. Assistant Professor.

Ronald's research interests center around computational complexity theory and knowledge representation and reasoning, but also extend to knowledge compilation, computational social choice, computational cognitive science, and computational and mathematical logic more broadly. The combination of problems and tools from different (sub)fields is something that sparks his interest. He is also interested in outreach activities for kids (and adults). One particularly fun way in which he does this is by developing games and puzzles that are based on, or inspired by, notions from (theoretical) computer science. Ronald is also a Diversity Committee member.

<https://staff.science.uva.nl/r.dehaan/>



Ilia, Evgenia. NLP&DH. PhD candidate.

Evgenia has just started her third PhD year. She is a member of the Probabil Lab, supervised by Wilker Aziz and Raquel Fernández. She is interested in Machine Learning and NLP and more specifically in investigating questions about the uncertainty of language generators, including analysing how current models exhibit uncertainty, evaluating current uncertainty estimates and proposing improved quantifiers.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/evgeniailia>

Klochowicz, Tomasz. FSPL. PhD candidate. See page 8.



McHugh, Dean. EPS. Postdoctoral researcher.

Dean has joined the ILLC already in 2016 as a Master student. In 2023, he completed his PhD, under the supervision of by Katrin Schulz (ILLC), on a project that sought to build bridges between causation and modality. He is currently supervised by Federica Russo and Jean Wagemans. Dean's research focuses on questions such as "What information should a causal model contain?", "What principles do we use to construct hypothetical possibilities?" and "What does the word 'because' mean?" He sits at the intersection of philosophical logic and formal semantics, combining formal tools with experimental methods.

<https://sites.google.com/site/deanmchugh1/>



Neplebroek, Vera. NLP&DH. PhD candidate.

Vera is in the second year of her PhD studies. She is a part of the Dialogue Modelling Group. Her PhD on Safety in Conversational AI is part of the LESSEN project, and she is supervised by Raquel Fernández and Arianna Bisazza. Her research is aimed at preventing conversational agents from generating unsafe utterances, to make sure no user is harmed or excluded. More concretely, she investigates the evaluation and mitigation of social biases, stereotypes, toxicity, and other forms of harmful behavior in generative large language models.

<https://veranep.github.io/>



Surikuchi, Aditya Kaushik. NLP&DH. PhD candidate.

Aditya is in his final PhD year. He is advised by Prof. Raquel Fernández and Assistant Prof. Sandro Pezzelle. His primary research interest is to explore the intersection of vision and language within AI, particularly from the perspective of "creativity". Currently, Aditya is studying techniques to ground and condition language models on sequences of multiple images and videos. In his previous career, he worked as a Software Engineer, where he got to develop and deploy various applications, including AI models.

<https://akskuchi.github.io>

Meeting with unit leaders and the MoL director



Bezhanishvili, Nick. MCL. Associate Professor. Director of the MoL programme.

Nick obtained his PhD from the ILLC in 2006 and held postdoctoral positions at the University of Leicester, Imperial College London, and Utrecht University before joining the ILLC again in 2014. His research focuses on modal and intermediate logics, particularly the applications of algebraic and topological methods. His contributions on the topic amount to over 100 publications. Nick is also the president of the Dutch Association for Logic and Philosophy of the Exact Sciences (VvL).

<https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/n.bezhanishvili/>



van den Berg, Benno. MCL (deputy unit leader). Associate Professor.

Benno works on category theory, categorical logic and type theory. He has made fundamental contributions to homotopy type theory. He is a member of the steering committee of TYPES and the Heyting foundation, and an editor for Applied Categorical Structures and Annals of Pure and Applied Logic. He obtained NWO Top 2 grant and an NWO ENW-M2 grant, and cowrote the Open competitie proposal on which he was hired as a postdoc. Together with Rogier Bos from the Freudenthal Institute, he wrote a module on logic for highschool students. He is also the chair of the Examinations Board of the Master of Logic.



Burgoyne, John Ashley. LMC (unit leader). Assistant Professor.

Ashley is an Assistant Professor in Computational Musicology, director of the Amsterdam Music Lab, and co-organiser of the annual AI Song Contest. He came to the ILLC in 2012, originally as a postdoc, and since then has grown to develop education in Musicology, Artificial Intelligence, and Brain and Cognitive Science. His research is at the intersection of cultural, AI, and psychometric approaches to music, focussing on intrinsically motivating online music experiments, efficient and interpretable music embeddings for music analysis and generation, and reliable measurement of latent behavioural traits.

<https://linkedin.com/in/johnashleyburgoyne>



Endriss, Ulle. TCS (unit leader). Full Professor.

Ulle is a Professor of AI and Collective Decision Making. He joined the ILLC in 2005 as an Assistant Professor and is currently serving as the head of the TCS unit. Much of his research is concerned with the application of ideas originating in computer science to problems arising in economics and politics. In this domain, he is about to complete an NWO VICI project on "Collective Information" and will soon start work on a new ERC Synergy Grant on "Advancing Digital Democratic Innovation". He is also an active member of the broader AI community. For instance, he recently served as PC chair of ECAI, the European Conference on AI (with 2,300+ submissions).

<https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/u.endriss/>



Incurvati, Luca. FSLP (unit leader). Associate Professor.

Luca joined the University of Amsterdam in 2014, having previously been a lecturer at the University of Cambridge, where he also obtained his PhD. He works on semantics and philosophy of language, philosophy of logic, philosophy of mathematics and meta-ethics. A recipient of an ERC Starting Grant, he is the author of *Conceptions of Set and the Foundations of Mathematics* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) and *Reasoning with Attitude: Foundations and Applications of Inferential Expressivism* (Oxford University Press, 2023, co-authored with Julian Schlöder).

<https://sites.google.com/site/lucaincurvati/home>



Smets, Sonja. ESP (interim unit leader). Full Professor.

Sonja conducts her research under both FNWI and FGw. Her research concerns logic and its applications in the field of epistemology and quantum theory. Sonja is the former director of the ILLC and she plays an important role in the international scientific community as board member of different academic societies.

<https://sites.google.com/site/thesonjasmetsite/>



Shutova, Ekaterina (Katia). NLP&DH (unit leader). Associate Professor.

Katia received her PhD from the University of Cambridge, and then worked as a research scientist at the University of California, Berkeley. Her current research focuses on few-shot learning for language interpretation tasks, multilingual NLP, generalisability and robustness of NLP models and interpretability in deep learning. Katia's prominent service roles include Program Chair of ACL 2025, Senior Action Editor of ACL Rolling Review, Action Editor of Computational Linguistics and Demonstrations chair at EMNLP 2022. She is also an ELLIS scholar.

<https://www.shutova.org/>

Meeting with junior Professors & Postdoctoral Researchers



Bloem, Jelke. NLP&DH. Assistant Professor.

Jelke has joined the ILLC in September 2021 as an Assistant Professor in Computational Humanities. He earned his PhD in 2021 from the UvA with a dissertation analysing word order variation in Dutch and Frisian using computational methods. He worked on applications of natural language processing methods to philosophy as a postdoctoral researcher at the ILLC, and also worked on the intersection of NLP and linguistics. Being a part of the AUC's Generative AI in Education taskforce, too, Jelke has given presentations on this topic throughout the university. Alongside his academic pursuits, he is also a member of the ILLC's diversity committee.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/jelke-bloem-2a3a5a16/>



Enguehard, Émile. FSPL. Postdoctoral Researcher. ILLC Postdoc Council member.

Émile joined the ILLC in 2022 shortly after completing his PhD at Institut Jean Nicod in Paris. He is a linguist working on a variety of topics around the theme of the semantics-pragmatics interface, such as the derivation of scalar implicatures, the semantics of number marking, lexical universals around logical connectives, as well as question semantics and pragmatics.

<https://staff.fnwi.uva.nl/e.j.m.enguehard/>

Girlando, Marianna. MCL. Assistant Professor. Ex-Postdoc Council member.

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Özgün, Aybüke. EPS. Assistant Professor. ILLC Colloquium co-organizer.

Aybüke is an Assistant Professor both at the ILLC and the Department of Philosophy at FGW. After completing a three-year postdoc at the ILLC, she joined the institute as a permanent staff member in 2020. Her research lies at the intersection of formal epistemology and philosophical logic, focusing on logics for knowledge (update), belief (revision), evidence (management), and imagination. To explore these topics, she uses modal logic and probability theory, combined with topological and algebraic tools.

<https://sites.google.com/site/ozgunaybuke/>



Pezzelle, Sandro. NLP&DH. Assistant Professor.

Sandro studies human-like natural language understanding and generation in text-only LLMs and their language-and-vision versions (VLMs). As such, his work combines methods and insights from Natural Language Processing, Computer Vision, and Cognitive Science. His current research interests span LLM and VLM evaluation and interpretability inspired by human cognition, how the learning of semantic and pragmatic abilities compares in humans and machines, and whether (and how) human cognitive mechanisms can inform the development of better models. His publication activities include numerous conferences (ACL, EMNLP, EACL, NAACL, CoLM) and journals (TACL, Cognition, Cognitive Science).

<https://sandropezzelle.github.io/>